

Newberry's Heroic Part In the Great Struggle Between the Sections

Furnished About Fifteen Hundred Men, Five Hundred of Whom Sleep on the Battlefield. Men Soon Forget But Women Never. When the Historian of Future Seeks for That Womanhood to Illustrate Heroism He Will Come to This Southland for the Heroic Mould.

(By Col. D. A. Dickert.)

The ordinance of "Secession of South Carolina" was passed December 20, 1860. To that convention was sent the truest, most representative and fair-minded men of the state. Newberry sent four of her foremost men of that day, Robt. Moorman, John P. Kinard, Joseph Caldwell and Simeon Fair, the latter an attorney, the others planters. No more did the men who signed that innocent looking instrument of writing, the "Ordinance of Secession," think of the saturnalia of bloodshed and ruin their acts would bring about, not only in their own state, but from the Potomac to the Rio Grande, than did the assassins of the Crown Prince of Austria know that their acts would throw Europe into a cataclysm of war.

Could those men have foreseen all that was before them, all but the final results, would their actions have been the same? I believe it would. They had met, in the words of the president of the convention, quoting Danton at the French revolution, "to dare, and again dare, and without end to dare." They dared to do what they knew they had a constitutional right to do, and they dared the consequences.

The time had come for revolution, and no human power could have stayed it. Slavery, as an institution, had filled its place in the economy of nature, and had to pass away, and the path of its exit led through upheavals and bloodshed. There was no other road that led to negro freedom. The union had been formed in distrust and jealousies and bitterness grew with the passing of events. The women, without exception, were with the men in the secession movement, women of every shade and standing in society, "the pampered daughters of the slave aristocracy," the overseers' daughters, the women of the poor and struggling peasantry; all were clamorous for the dissolution of the union. The womanhood of the South, who in the event of war, would be the greatest sufferers and losers, whether the South was victor or the vanquished, were willing to stake their fate upon the hazard, let it be peace or war. The older of the women had not forgotten the fate of San Domingo, when all was as fair and peaceable as a summer day, the recently freed negroes rose in insurrection and massacred the white men, women and children, till this fairest isle of the Antilles was denuded of white population.

The acts of John Brown and his allies, who only a few years before had been sent South by the very party that was just coming into power to raise insurrection and liberate the slaves by force of arms, who in one night butchered, in cold blood, whole families of Virginia's best citizens. It was not the loss of slaves, as a property value, the South dreaded, but the sudden liberation of four or five million of irresponsible and ignorant negroes, whose only idea of freedom was license. It was a secret dread, an enemy ever present, but unseen.

On the secession of the state, Governor Pickens made a call for a regiment of six-months troops, to report in Charleston and be ready to meet any potentiality. The first company organized was the "Rhett Guards," led by Capt. Whit Walker. Through the fortunes of war, Captains B. M. Bleas, Erskine Lyles and D. P. Goggans became its commanders. This company entered the state service January 5, 1861, as a part of the First regiment.

On the booming of the cannon against the walls of Sumter, in April, five more companies from Newberry reported for duty, under an act of the

legislature calling for ten regiments in case of emergency. Capt. J. D. Nance (afterwards colonel) organized Company E. (Captains who also commanded, J. K. G. Nance and Robt. H. Wright.) Company C, Capt. R. C. Maffett (and C. W. Herbert). Company B, Capt. Davidson (and Thos. S. Gary).

Capt. I. C. S. Brown's company was disbanded. Capt. Drury Nunnemaker, Company H (afterwards commanded by D. A. Dickert), was raised partly in the Fork, but was considered a Newberry company. All these companies were a part of the Third South Carolina regiment, commanded by Col. J. H. Williams, also of the county, many Newberrians joined companies considered as being from other counties, being organized near the border line.

As the war progressed, other troops were called for, and Newberry responded with Company D, I. F. Hunt (P. W. Cromer, J. Y. McFall) as cap-

battery, stationed on the coast.

In the latter part of 1864, when the time had come, as Gen. Grant so aptly put, the "Confederacy was to rob the 'cradle and the grave,'" young boys, between the ages of 16 and 18, were formed into companies. Capt. Will Holman commanded those from Newberry. Later still, when the coast was threatened, boys between 14 and 16 and men over 60 were formed and mustered into state service.

These companies were commanded by Captains R. F. Atwood, Ben. Mathis and Spearman, John Sims and G. H. Chapman. Many of these companies saw active service, but they mostly did police duty. They relieved many regular soldiers from such duties and returned them to the trenches.

Newberry furnished between fifteen and sixteen hundred men for the war, and, as Lycuges said of his Spartans, "every man a brick." About five hundred of these filled a soldier's grave.

The war ended in April, 1865, and as the battle flags of the South lay furled on the grounded arms of the Southern soldiers, the victors looked on the vanquished, more in sorrow than exultation. When the Northern troops looked on the haggard, hungry, tattered and footworn soldiers who had held them in bloody combats, against overwhelming odds; soldiers who had shown such heroism which had won the plaudits of the world, after four years of fighting as was never known since history began, there were no cheers or exultations. They turned from the narrow-



Captain D. A. Dickert, who entered the service as a boy private and came out as colonel commanding his regiment at only 19 years of age.

tain. Company G, William Lester (J. B. Fellers, J. F. Banks) captains, and was made a part of the Thirtieth South Carolina Volunteers. Capt. Hunt afterward became colonel of the regiment. Capt. Eichleberger's company of Lexington and Newberry was of this regiment. William Leitzsey was one of the captains. (The companies joined the Holcombe legion (named in honor of Lucy Holcombe, wife of Governor Pickens).)

Company G, J. B. Hiller (J. E. Brennen, B. B. McCrary, John Williams). Company H, Jno. R. Spearman (J. W. Williams). This company was afterward changed into cavalry and commanded most of the time by S. J. Walker. Company H, James M. Maffett (Jacob Warner, Henry S. Boozer) captains. John M. Kinard (and W. M. Kinard) were captains of Company F, Twentieth regiment.

There being no call for cavalry or artillery companies, Captains T. J. Lipscomb and J. Wistar Gary organized a cavalry company, composed mostly of Newberry men, and became Company G, Second South Carolina cavalry. Capt. E. S. Keitt formed a company of mounted men, on the coast, largely of men from this county. A large contingent from Newberry joined Schultz's

ing scenes in sadness and sorrow.

The soldiers from Newberry, under the terms of their parole, returned to their homes, and prepared to pick up the tangled threads of life, and begin anew. So did all the men of the South. The women, who had fed and clothed the vast army, with product furnished, and in many cases made with their own hands, met the soldiers with open arms. No words of disappointment or reproach. Every mother felt in her heart that, while defeated, yet every son returned to his home "with his shield or had been carried to his grave on it."

Newberry furnished three historians of the war, if I may be pardoned for including my own name among the number. John A. Chapman, in his "Annals of Newberry," has collected the names and war record of every man that went from the county. Major J. F. J. Caldwell, a member of Gen. McGowan's staff, wrote the history of the First, Twelfth, Thirtieth and Fourteenth regiments of South Carolina Volunteers. Capt. D. A. Dickert wrote the history of Ker-shaw's brigade, giving a detailed account of the Second, Third, Seventh, Eighth, Fifteenth and Twentieth South Carolina regiments; also the Thirtieth battalion. All these histories were

written long after the close of the war, and consequently are not as full and complete as the authors would desire. However, no county in the state has done as much to save the names as perpetuate the memories of the soldiers of the state, who died upon the fields of Moro.

The ladies of Newberry have erected a beautiful monument, in honor of their soldiers, and had engraved in marble the names of all who fell. They have also erected a shaft in Rosemont cemetery, with appropriate inscription in the honor of a brave soldier, who while passing through the town on his way home, in a distant state, gave up his life at the hands of negro soldiers

the white people to live under for a quarter of a century after gaining control of the government. It changed many of our archaic laws and regulations to conform to the new order and progress of the times. They changed our districts to counties, subdivided these into townships, improved the manner of auditing property and the collection of taxes, authorized a free school system, allowed manhood suffrage, without regard to race, color or previous condition, gave married women the absolute control of her property. These conditions were all new to the state.

The first men to be elected to the general assembly from Newberry un-

the full state ticket, stumped the country from the mountains to the seaboard. At every gathering at which he was to speak he was met by long lines of armed horsemen dressed in the emblematic "red shirt," giving voice to their feeling that they would be free or "know the reason why." At Newberry it was said fully two thousand red shirted horsemen met him, hundreds from other counties.

In the end, the red shirts and the "tissue ballots" elected that state ticket. The "tissue ballot" was found to be a formidable weapon in the hands of the minority. It worked in most of the counties in the state, enough to give the democrats the machinery of government, but the majority of the negroes in Newberry was too great for even the "tissue ballot" to win. H. C. Corwin, a carpet-bagger from Ohio, was elected to the senate, Simps Bridges, Will Thomas and Tom Keitt, all negroes, were elected to the house. This was the last of the "old guards of radicalism" in Newberry. But their terms in office were of short duration. The ingenuity of the white man, with the possession of the law-making power in his hand, did not take long to find reason for dispensing with all these men but Bridges, and replacing them with James N. Lipscomb senator; Y. J. Pope and George Johnstone to the house. Bridges was retained during his term for political reasons. Thus after ten years of delirious anarchy, Newberry once more came into her own.

It has been fifty years and more since our great fratricidal strife ended, and while this generation of men have almost forgot the causes of the war and the battles that were fought, the memory of the women and their feelings today are just as fresh and ardent as when the guns were sounding on the fields. The women of Newberry every year call together the remnant of old soldiers, spread a great banquet before them, repair to the last resting places of the dead, strew flowers and drop a tear over the graves of those who have answered to the last great roll call. When the centuries roll around and historians seek for womanhood who they can illustrate as models of heroism and self sacrifice in times of war, the deeds of the Spartan woman will be ignored, and it will be to the Southland they will turn, to find the heroic mould, that will serve for all time, the heroines of the world.



Members of the Secession Convention from Newberry—Simeon Fair (4), John P. Kinard (1), Robert Moorman (2), Joseph Caldwell (3).

in defending the honor of women.

Grant, and even Sherman, the accursed of the South, showed greater magnanimity to their fallen foes than the South had hoped or expected. If the men who had been behind the guns, instead of men in the bomb-proof offices, had had the making of peace, all the acrimony, hatred and turmoil of reconstruction would have been avoided. President Johnson seemed favorable towards the South, appointed B. F. Perry, a consistent Union man, but loyal to the South, a provisional governor, and ordered a civil government established. James L. Orr was elected governor. Robt. Stewart, Henry Sumner and E. P. Lake members of the convention to frame a new constitution more in consonance with the new order of things. The legislature was soon called together in the fall of 1865, with Col. J. H. Williams senator, C. H. Sumner, E. S. Keitt and A. C. Garlington to the house of representatives. Like the members of the convention of 1860, these men were among the foremost men of the county at that day. But all this work was called to a halt by a savage, revengeful and South-hating party, who had gained control of the machinery of government at the North. Gen. Daniel E. Sickles was made military governor and the state declared under military rule. The negro had been enfranchised by this time, and all who had aided, abetted or sympathized with the rebellion were debarred from holding office in the county or state.

A new constitutional convention was called in 1868, and as the negroes outnumbered the whites three to one, the whites stood aloof from the polling precincts and let the election go by default. B. Odel Duncan, white, who had been in Europe during the war, Lee Nance and Jim Henderson, both negroes, were elected. Let it be here said, to the eternal credit of Newberry, that throughout those ten years of thievery and vandalism, not one of her citizens turned scallawag.

This convention, 1868, and the legislature that followed was called "The great ring-streaked, striped and black," on account of the motly coloring of its members, two-thirds being mulattoes and blacks. However, there were some brainy men from the North in the convention, who had the interest of the state at heart apparently, for they had the forethought to go to Massachusetts and copy the better parts from that commonwealth's constitution. It was in many respects a good one, good enough, in fact, for

der the new government was C. H. Montgomery, to the senate, a white scallawag from Charleston. Jim Henderson, Jim Hudson and Joe Boston, all negroes, to the legislature. Gen. Scott, then commanding U. S. troops in the state, was chosen governor, replacing Gen. Canby, who in turn had replaced Gen. Sickles as military governor.

Now began and continued for ten years "the days of good stealing," a perfect saturnalia of pillage, plunder and anarchy, that even surprises the world today. The carpet-bagger, scallawags and negroes in one continual ogre of plunder, with the whites helpless.

During this time, secret, oath-bound societies were organized in every section of Newberry, whose ostensible purpose was to preserve order, and to show to the negroes that white men were apparently acquiescing in their rioting in robbery, but they were not always asleep. These organizations, called by the people Ku Klux, met in out of the way places, in hideous disguises, rode through the neighborhoods as silently and as quietly as a funeral cortege. The purpose of their organization, their silent rides, their coming and going or the object of their movements were only conjectural. Several infractions of the law was attributed to the secret clans, but without doubt committed by outsiders and laid to the door of these so-called Ku Klux for political effect. When the whites regained the state and county these mysterious clans, as quietly dispersed. Many citizens were cast in jail, and many forced to flee the country for suspected complicity in these secret orders.

After ten years of turmoil, bitterness and strife in which the whites had tried every honest means to regain control of their state without avail, there came a feeling over the whole people that they would gain the control of their state by fair or foul means or there would be revolution. The long-strained tension had broken and now our people would have their just right and an honest government or there would be civil war.

It was in 1876 the white men of the state rose en masse, put a full white ticket in the field with Gen. Wade Hampton for governor as their standard bearer. The most heated, lurid and exciting campaign ever conducted in South Carolina was now on. The men had concluded in advance to have their government, it mattered not the result of the election. Hampton, with



Col. D. A. Dickert, as he appeared as a boy soldier when he entered the service and when he had his famous "Dance with Death."

SUMMERS' GARAGE

Headquarters in Newberry County For the Ford Car—A Place Where Cars Are Given Best Care.

Summers' Garage, on east Main street, is one of the largest and best equipped automobile repair shops in this section of the state. It is the home of the Ford car, which has become a necessity in every community in this day and time. Besides selling this popular and faithful public carrier, Summers' Garage handles a large line of motor car accessories and is equipped for the repair of cars of all kinds. A full force of careful and competent machinists is kept busy here to do all kinds of repairing and rebuilding cars. The garage has been in operation for five years, and has become well known all through the country and cars are brought here from distant part of the county to be overhauled and put in shape so that the driver can count on getting back the same day when he makes his trips. Mr. J. W. Smith, Jr., is in charge of the garage. He is an enterprising and wide awake business man and he gives his personal attention to the work that is brought to him. (The president and treasurer of the company is Mr. C. T. Summers, who is also the secretary of the Summer Bros. company.)

In addition to the machinery work, the Summer Garage also makes a specialty of vulcanizing, and has a well equipped plant for that work.